

TROPICAL CYCLONE 12A

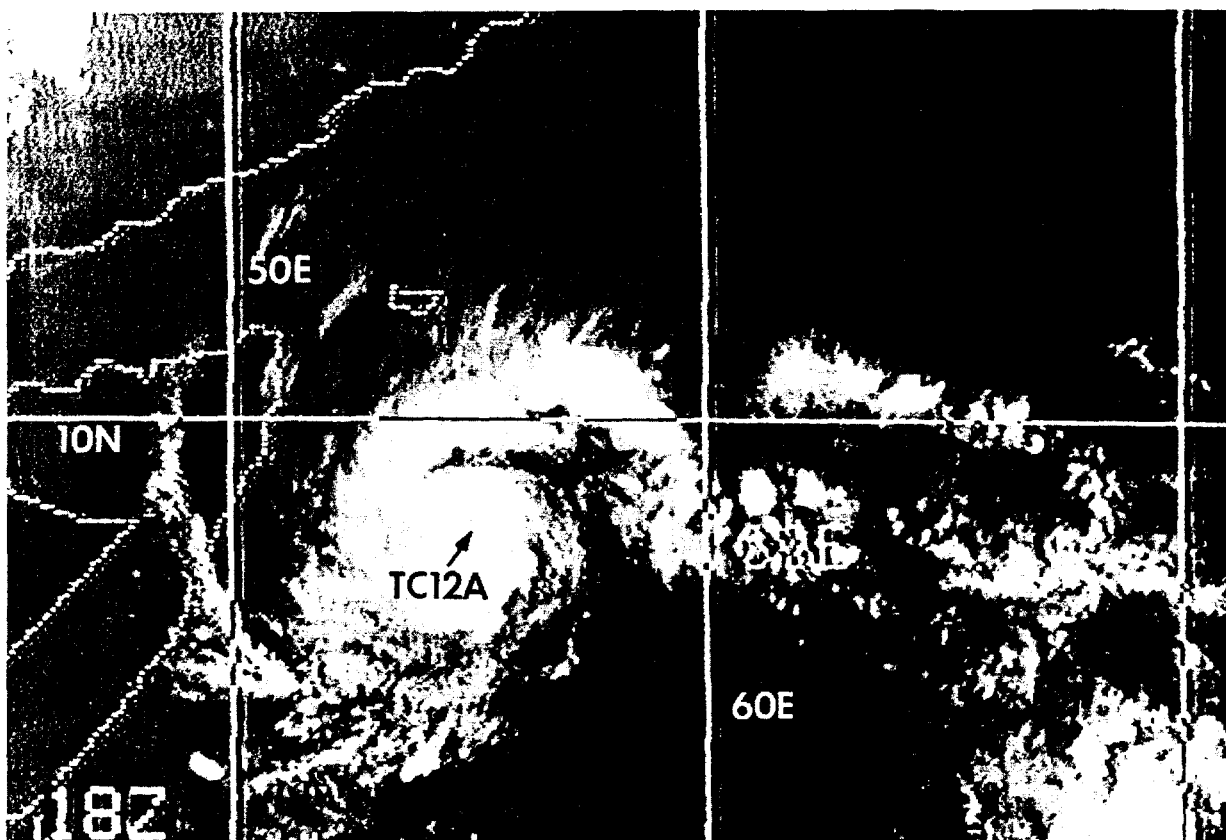


Figure 3-12A-1. At peak intensity, TC12A approaches the coast of Somalia (230500Z December DMSP infrared imagery).

Tropical cyclone 12A was the fourth cyclone in the Arabian Sea and the twelfth cyclone in the North Indian Ocean in 1992. For JTWC, this set an all-time record for the number of significant North Indian Ocean tropical cyclones. The previous record was eight significant tropical cyclones in 1987. The tropical disturbance that became TC12A formed in the Maldives in the near equatorial trough and was initially mentioned by JTWC on the 181800Z December Significant Tropical Weather Advisory. A Tropical Cyclone Formation Alert was issued at 200400Z followed by the first warning at 201200Z. TC12A tracked quickly westward across the central Arabian Sea towards the coast of Somalia. Accurate warnings allowed ships supporting Operation RESTORE HOPE to transit the Arabian Sea without any damage, diversions or delays. Warnings were sent out with expanded prognostic reasoning messages to keep operational commanders and their weather personnel informed on JTWC's rationale for the tropical cyclone's movement and intensity forecasts. Reaching a peak intensity of 50 kt (26 m/sec) just prior to landfall, TC12A weakened rapidly after making landfall in Somalia, bringing much needed rain to a dry country. JTWC issued the final warning at 241800Z as TC12A dissipated over land.